

One notable characteristic is the gradual decline in the male population from 48 percent in 1940 to 46 percent in 1950, remaining at this level during the 1950s, but declining again to a low of 45.6 percent by 1970. This has been somewhat due to a declining percentage of males between the ages of fifteen through sixty-four; in 1940, this category amounted to 69.5 percent of the males. By 1950, it had dropped to 62.5 percent; it declined further to 58 percent by 1960 but by 1970, it was on the upswing (mainly due to annexations and industrial growth that occurred in the late 1960s) to 62.1 percent. From this it appears that a fair number of men in these productive work years were leaving for job opportunities elsewhere up until perhaps 1968 or 1969. Conditions at this time (1976) give no indication of a reversal.

Over the years, the percentage of Blacks (both male and female) has dropped every decade. In 1940 and 1950, the percentage amounted to 35.4; by 1960, it had dropped to 31.2; by 1970 it had declined to 26.6. This is probably indicative of a lack of job opportunities within and around the town as industrial development has occurred. This is further substantiated by the fact that from 1960 to 1970 the excess of out migration over natural births in Johnston County caused the population decline; for the Blacks the same pattern prevailed.³ It is estimated, however, that from 1970 to 1973, out migration from the county has moderated somewhat with the result that the population has increased slightly in spite of the lower birthrate.⁴

As examination of the age spectrum between 1960 and 1970 also reveals an interesting pattern, as depicted by the population pyramid below:

